

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 103171 TOSEC 110294

NODIS

E.O. 11652:

TAGS:OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: REACTION TO OUR LUSAKA SPEECH

FOR SECRETARY FROM MCCLOSKEY

1. IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR THE PENNSYLVANIA PRIMARY YOUR SPEECH WOULD HAVE EXCLUSIVELY DOMINATED THE FRONT PAGES OF THE US PRESS TODAY. AS IT IS, THE SPEECH WON EQUALLY PROMINENT ATTENTION ON PAGE 1 IN ALL PAPERS, WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES CARRYING FULL TEXT AND THE WASHINGTON POST PARTIAL TEXT INSIDE. THE SPEECH DID DOMINATE THE FRONT PAGES OF THE AFTERNOON PAPERS YESTERDAY AND, I SUSPECT, A MAJORITY OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS BOTH DAYS. SO THE SHEER AMOUNT OF NEWS SPACE THE SPEECH COMMANDED IS MOST IMPRESSIVE. IT HAS SUCCEEDED IN PUTTING AFRICA ON THE MAP AND THE USG ON RECORD WITH AN UNMISTAKABLE STATEMENT OF POLICY.

2. EDITORIALY, THE TREATMENT HAS BEEN IMPRESSIVE ALSO. THE VOLUME OF COMMENTARY, WHICH WILL CONTINUE FOR WEEKS, CONFIDENTIAL

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HAS ALREADY BEEN EXTENSIVE. IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT AS MANY

PAPERS (NEW YORK TIMES, WASHINGTON STAR, CHICAGO TRIBUNE, CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, BALTIMORE SUN) HAVE ALREADY DECLARED THEMSELVES EDITORIALY. IN ITS USUAL FASHION THE WASHINGTON POST HAS NOT GOTTEN IT TO THE

EDITORIAL PAGE YET. THIS IS A SAFE BET THAT THE EDITORIAL, WHEN THEY GET TO IT, WILL BE FAVORABLE. THEY ARE ONLY PROMPT WITH CRITICAL COMMENT.

3. EDITORIAL CONTENT SO FAR HAS BEEN UNIFORMLY FAVORABLE WITH ONLY THE MOST MINOR SORT OF RESERVATION BEING EXPRESSED -- I.E., YOU WERE ENUNCIATING "A NEW POLICY THAT OUGHT TO HAVE BEEN AN OLD POLICY." MORE SIGNIFICANTLY, EVERYTHING I'VE SEEN SO FAR IS FOUR SQUARE BEHIND YOUR COMMITMENTS WITH STATEMENTS OF INTENTION TO MONITOR THE PERFORMANCE WHICH MUST FOLLOW.

4. CONGRESSIONAL REACTION IS SUBSUMED TO INCREASINGLY INTENSE CONCENTRATION ON ELECTION CAMPAIGN DEVELOPMENTS. WHAT HAS BEEN AIRED SO FAR IS REMARKABLY POSITIVE. WE IN FACT ARE FINDING THAT NONE OF THE PREDICTABLE VOICES OF OPPOSITION HAVE SPOKEN OUT PUBLICLY. IN CONVERSATION WITH US, CONSERVATIVES HAVE SAID THEY ARE OPPOSED TO ELEMENTS IN THE SPEECH, BUT THIS HAS NOT BEEN EXPRESSED TO THE MEDIA. SIKES OF FLORIDA CONFIRMED THAT HE STILL OPPOSES OUR SOUTHERN AFRICA POLICY. DERWINSKI STATED THAT HE, TOO, IS OPPOSED TO REPEAL OF THE BYRD AMENDMENT, BUT HE DOES NOT INTEND TO SPEAK OUT ON THE SUBJECT. GOLDWATER'S OFFICE SAID THEY DOUBTED THAT HE HAD CHANGED HIS OPPOSITION, BUT THERE IS NOTHING COOKING ON THE CONSERVATIVE SIDE AT THIS TIME.

5. ON THE OTHER SIDE, PREDICTABLE SUPPORTERS OF YOUR POLICY HAVE BEEN UNUSUALLY OUTSPOKEN IN PRAISING YOUR LUSAKA SPEECH. YOU HAVE HAD OUR DETAILED REPORT YESTERDAY AND WE HAVE MORE OF THE SAME TODAY. IT IS PERHAPS BEST CHARACTERIZED BY HUMPHREY'S STATEMENT BEFORE FOUR TV CAMERAS THIS AFTERNOON THAT THE LUSAKA SPEECH WAS THE FINEST STATEMENT OF PUBLIC POLICY MADE IN THIS ADMINISTRATION. MOST OF OUR CONTACTS AGREE THAT THE SUBSTANCE, CONFIDENTIAL

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TIMING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL FOLLOW-THROUGH HAVE COMPLETELY CHANGED THE ATMOSPHERE. PROSPECTS FOR REPEAL OF THE BYRD AMENDMENT ARE GOOD AND WE ARE BEING URGED TO MOVE PROMPTLY --LIKE NEXT WEEK. THERE HAS BEEN SOME GRUDGING TONE IN THE SUPPORT FROM BLACK CAUCUS MEMBERS, BUT, ON THE WHOLE, YOU ARE COLLECTING UNUSUAL PRAISE FROM PEOPLE WHO OFTEN HAVE BEEN YOUR CRITICS, E.G., DICK CLARK, TUNNEY, FRASER, DIGGS.

6. WARM REGARDS. SISCO

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